

Penfield Institute, Troy, Feb. 18th 1842

To Prof. A. Gray, of Michigan. (now in N. York).

I take no other notice of your challenge than to consider it as giving me a constructive answer of Prof. Sherman to my letter to him.

I may perhaps compliment you for your courage and military gallantry, in daring to offer, under your sign-manual, to give further unprovoked abuse to an old man of three-score-six, known to you to be so broken down with 20 years of distressing asthma, and three years bleeding at the lungs, as to be unable to do his daily business writing. — More particularly, as he never gave you an unkind word or thought; but has uniformly, from the first appearance of your name in public, spoken of you as an industrious young botanist, who promised usefulness to natural science. — Also sanctioned his sincerity by introducing your physiology of botany as his school text-book.

Your humble
servant,
Amos Eaton.

Eaton

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Asa Gray.
Care of Dr. J. Loomis.
New York.

